THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Government has obtained in-principle approval of the Planning Commission for setting up of Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). PHFI will establish two Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) to impart highest quality of public health education in the country. The total cost estimated for establishment of two IIPHs is Rs.200 crores. The proposal envisages contribution from Government of India of only one-third of the total cost, i.e. Rs.65 crores with the balance being met out of private/corporate funds. Out of the two IIPHs proposed, one would be in northern region around Delhi and the other in the Southern region of the country in Tamil Nadu. This initiative seeks to build the Human Resource capacity, which is considered essential to improve public health delivery on a large scale. The proposal is subject to further approvals of Government and participation of Private/Corporate sector.

Measures to enhance medical facilities in towns

1144. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether major hospitals and referral hospitals are located only in cities;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to set up large hospitals/referral hospitals in small towns so that the facilities of such hospitals are easily accessible to people living in hinterlands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Health being the State subject under the Constitution of India, it is for the State Governments to set up hospitals/referral hospitals in smaller towns subject to their priorities and availability of their resources. However, the Central Government under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) envisages to set up Six AIIMS like institutions at Patna, Raipur, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur and Rishikesh.

Water pollution and child mortality

1145. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the highest mortality rate just

better than Pakistan and Bhutan in terms of environmental threats to children's health, according to the WHO's classification which has been published in its publication "Inheriting the world: Atlas of children health and environment";

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is because of the high level contamination of water; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government are thinking to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The World Health Organisation's publication "Inheriting the World: Atlas of children and the Health Environment" examines the effects of various environmental factors on children health. The report also classifies the countries according to mortality rates. According to this classification, Pakistan with child mortality rate of 110 per 1000 live births, Bhutan with child mortality rate of 98 per 1000 live births and India with child mortality rate of 96 per 1000 live births have been classified as high mortality countries. However, 49 out of 192 countries listed in the Report have a child mortality rate higher than that of India.

(b) and (c) Lack of access of safe drinking water alongwith poor environmental sanitation are important contributors to child mortality due to diarrhoeal diseases. In addition, air pollution is one of the important causes of acute respiratory infections among children which is another major cause of child mortality.

Safe Drinking Water and improvement in sanitation services are recognized as important interventions in preventing diarrhea. Govt. of India is implementing the Central Rural Sanitation Programme. Under this, the Department of Drinking Water Supply is implementing Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). Govt. of India has sanctioned Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects in 520 districts of the country to improve the sanitation scenario in the villages. The objectives of the TSC Programme are to bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, accelerate sanitation coverage, generate felt demand for sanitation facilities through awareness creation and Health Education. Further the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) recently launched by the Govt. of India seeks to converge health concerns with determinants of health, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water.